

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed March 21, 2007. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 9-42, 44-47 and 51 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 25, and 44 are independent. In the Office Action, the Examiner:

- allowed claims 25-39 and 44-46
- indicated that claims 8, 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form;
- rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-21, 24, 40-42, 47 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2002/0156474 to Wack et al. (hereinafter "Wack") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,779,240 to Kondo (hereinafter "Kondo"); and
- rejected pending claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Wack in combination with both Kondo and U.S. Patent No. 6,572,622 to Schafer et al. hereinafter "Shafer").

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 8, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have also amended dependent claims 40-42 to conform with amendments to independent claim 1 and/or better define the claimed invention. Claim 8 has been canceled. All amendments are fully supported by the originally-filed specification and/or drawings of the present application. No new matter has been added. The claim amendments made herein do not represent acquiescence in the Examiner's rejections, but rather are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and/or maintain consistency in claim language. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of any previously presented claims in one or more continuation applications. Applicants respectfully submit that each of the currently pending claims define features of the present invention that are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the prior art of record and respectfully request allowance of same.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 25-39 and

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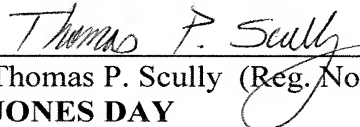
44-46 and the indication that claims 8, 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As discussed above, the subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Given these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and each of its dependent claims 2-7, 9-24, 40-42, 47 and 51, are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each of pending claims 1-7, 9-42, 44-47, and 51 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (212) 326-3939 if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining issues.

No additional claim fees are believed due with this submission. However, should any additional fees be required, please charge such fees to Jones Day deposit account no. 50-3013.

Date: June 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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